

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS21013

The purpose of this legislation is to enable counties and cities to establish traffic safety programs, which a motorist might choose to attend in lieu of issuance of a citation for a traffic violation. Attendance at traffic safety programs would be voluntary and serve as a refresher course in safe driving for motorists who choose to attend them. Motorists who attend these programs would not receive a citation; if they fail to attend after committing to do so, they may be charged with the original infraction violation. The option to either issue a citation or offer attendance at a traffic safety school would rest in the discretion of the law enforcement officer who makes contact with the motorist involved in the traffic violation, much like an officer at present has discretion to issue a citation or give a warning. The legislation allows counties and cities to charge a fee for such programs and provides that a portion of those fees would be dedicated to the peace officer standards and training fund and to the ISTARS technology fund.

FISCAL NOTE

Prior to 2008, the five (5) cities offering traffic safety education paid POST \$73,500 from FY2005 to mid-FY2008. POST's portion of the fee charged enrollees in the program ranged from \$7 to \$10 per enrollee. A recent survey indicates that ten (10) or more cities currently offer traffic safety education programs. As more cities offer the program, the number of citations issued could decrease, which will decrease funds for POST and ISTARS. This proposal would offset any decrease in POST and ISTARS funding due to establishment of traffic safety education programs.

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